H. SERVICE INFORMATION (See application form, Part I, blocks 11A, 11B, 11C and 11D) – Complete information should be furnished for each period of the veteran's active service including service as a commissioned officer in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration including officers of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and Environmental Science Services Administration or Public Health Service. If the veteran never filed a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs, you should furnish the discharge or separation document issued by the service department for each period of service listed. If you do not have this document, we will obtain a copy.

## I. INFORMATION RELATING TO MARRIAGE (See application form Part II)

- (1) Proof of relationship. The marriage of surviving spouse claimant to the veteran should be established by one of the following types of evidence in order of preference indicated:
  - (a) A certified copy of the public or church record of marriage to the veteran.

(b) Affidavit of the clergyman or magistrate who officiated.

(c) Original certificate of marriage.

- (d) Affidavits of two or more eye witnesses to the ceremony.
- (2) HOW MARRIAGE ENDED. IMPORTANT Complete information concerning all marriages entered into by either the surviving spouse or the veteran and the termination of such marriages must be furnished in Items 14 through 17. Specific details as to date, place and manner of dissolution of each marriage must be included. Show the month, day and year for "date". Show city and state for "place".

## J. INFORMATION CONCERNING CHILDREN (See application form Part III)

- (1) PROOF OF AGE AND RELATIONSHIP OF CHILD. Evidence to establish the fact of birth of a child is required. It should consist of a certified copy of the public record of birth or a copy of the church record of birth or baptism showing date of birth of each child and the names of the parents.
- (2) HELPLESS CHILD. If any child is claimed as being permanently incapable of self-support by reason of mental or physical defect, it must be shown that such incapacity existed prior to the date the child attained age 18. The nature and extent of the physical or mental impairment should be shown by a statement from the attending physician or other medical evidence, forwarded with the application.

## K. NET WORTH (See application form, Part IV)

- (1) MINORS AND INCOMPETENTS.
  - (a) Custodian or Guardian of a Surviving Spouse Report only the net worth of your ward.
- (b) Custodian of Child(ren) Report your net worth as well as the individual net worth of EACH CHILD for whom benefits are claimed.
- (2) SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH CHILDREN. When a surviving spouse files application in his/her own right, the separate net worth of each child for whom benefits are claimed must also be reported.
- (3) CHILDREN ALONE. When application is filed on behalf of a child in his/her own right, the child's net worth should be reported.

Item 25A - Include market value of stocks, checking accounts, bank deposits, savings and loan accounts, cash and currency.

Item 25B - Do not include the value of the single dwelling unit or that portion of real property used solely as your principal residence. On all other real estate reduce the market value by amount of any money owed on it such as mortgages or other indebtedness.

Item 25C – Report the total market value of all rights and interest in all other property not included in Items 25A and B. "Market value" is the price it would currently receive if sold in an open market. Do not include value of ordinary personal effects necessary for your daily living such as an automobile, clothing, furniture and the dwelling (single family unit) used as your principal residence.

Item 25D - Report the total of Items 25A through 25C. This should be your net worth.

## L. ANNUAL INCOME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE AND/OR CHILD(REN) (See application form, Part V)

- (1) MINORS AND INCOMPETENTS.
  - (a) Custodian or Guardian of a Surviving Spouse Report only the income of your ward.
- (b) Custodian of Child(ren) Report your income as well as the individual income of each child for whom benefits are claimed.
- (2) SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH CHILDREN. When a surviving spouse files application in his/her right, the separate income of each child for whom benefits are claimed must also be reported.